

MARKETTE PARENT HANDBOOK & ROOKIE INFORMATION PACKET

How Can Parents Support the Team?

- Understand why we are doing all of this (for your children)
- Realize that we are all part of the TEAM and that sometimes the good of the team comes before the individual
- Participate as parents: be informed, be open to communicating about problems
- Volunteer and participate in fund-raisers
- Orient new parents early, both Dads and Moms
- Invite and involve fathers
- Attend all performances and competitions

Parent's "Do" and "Don't" Lists

Here is a list of "dos" and "don'ts" to help parents support the Markette organization.

"Do's"

- Do praise and appreciate their hard work, time, energy, loyalty, and dedication
- Do provide nutritious meals on game day
- Do understand and let them feel what they feel, even when they are angry or depressed
- Do support the team officers and directors
- Do be happy with what your child is trying to accomplish
- Do be there when they need you
- Do help with little things when you can
- Do let them be responsible for getting themselves up, dressed, and to practice on time
- Do maintain a positive attitude
- Do affirm what they are doing
- Do encourage them to keep their grades up
- Do go to the director if you have a problem

"Don'ts"

- Don't live your life through your child
- Don't lose your cool
- Don't interfere with problems the kids have with each other
- Don't take over their responsibilities
- Don't fuss or nag
- Don't feed their dissatisfaction
- Don't criticize your child
- Don't put too much pressure on them
- Don't forget the life lessons your child is getting out of this experience
- Don't expect your child to be an exception
- Don't talk to other dance team parents about negatives—don't gossip
- Don't criticize the organization to others
- Don't go to the principal with problems, talk to the director first

Fundraising/Volunteer Committees

Throughout the year, the Markettes will hold a series of fundraisers. The money raised is used to defray the costs of trips, competitions, and costumes. Parents may be asked to pay for costumes if we cannot meet our budget by fundraising.

Each year, the parents divide into subcommittees to manage many of the fundraising, community awareness, and general events of the Markettes. These committees vary from year to year depending on the director's plans. Below is a sampling of committees that have been part of this organization in years past. I am looking for one parent to head each committee and a bunch of volunteers for each. **PARENTS MUST VOLUNTEER TO KEEP THE MARKETTES COMPETING AT A HIGH LEVEL.**

Committee	Responsibilities
Concessions	Coordinate volunteers to sell concessions at spring show and manage the purchase and set up of all snacks and drinks.
Junior Drill Clinic	Typically held in September and is approximately 4 hours. Coordinate marketing, tickets, t-shirts etc.
Attire Ordering	Coordinate the marketing and selling of Markette yard signs. Place orders and distribute products upon delivery.
Program	Coordinate the collection of business/personal ads.
Rehearsal Dinner	Coordinate the food for spring show rehearsal dinner.
Spring Show Dinner	Coordinate the food for spring show dinner (Friday).
Car Decals	Coordinate the distribution of the Markette car decals.
Mums and Garters	Coordinate the sale, production and distribution of MHS mums and garter for homecoming.
Game Day Chaperones	Acquire two adult chaperones for each football game and verify they completed SBISD volunteer forms.
Camp Snacks	Bring snacks to school for each day of August camp.
Car Wash	Reach out to Mister Car Wash and acquire tickets and reconcile ticket sales.
Senior Recognition	Coordinate flowers for senior recognition (football season).
Senior Recognition	Coordinate flowers for senior recognition (spring show).
Senior Gifts	Purchase gifts for senior Markettes, distributed at banquet and directors will specify the gifts.
Hot Chocolate	Bring hot chocolate to cold football games .
Wufoo Coordinator	Handles online orders for Mums/Garters and online registration for Junior Drill and Markette for a Night (September/October).
Online Spring Show Ticket Sales	Work with the Arts People website to set up online ticket sales. Also handles ticket sales at the door the day of the show.

Roles of Rookies (1st Year Markettes)

- Learn traditions and carry them on
- Take criticism constructively, not personally
- Learn discipline and responsibility
- As a rule, always follow “Dance Team” time. Be at least 5 minutes early to practices, performances, and events
- Keep your grades up at all times
- Teach your parents about dance team
- Learn honesty and loyalty
- Become part of the team—You have committed to this team, be prepared to give 100%
- Learn to overcome fear through communication
- Make new friends
- Support your Director
- Show respect for the veteran Markettes and team Officers
- Don’t ever correct the Officers when they are teaching
- Don’t correct “veteran” girls—be respectful
- Develop self-confidence
- Learn to perfect your performance under pressure
- Have a positive attitude
- Prove yourselves worthy of membership on the Markettes
- Stretch over the summer
- Don’t gossip or tattletale. You will be with these people all year—be nice.
- Always put your name on all of your Markette items
- Never wear uniforms outside of school functions
- Act like a lady—don’t damage the reputation of all Markettes by your behavior at any time (during school or outside of school)
- You are responsible for picking up after yourself wherever you go
- Don’t leave things in the dance room—they will end up lost
- Know the rules as stated in both the Markettes Constitution

Roles of Veteran Markettes

- Be a good role model for the new or “Rookie” Markettes
- As a rule, always follow “Dance Team” time. Be at least 5 minutes early to practices, performances, and events
- Keep your grades up
- Support your Director
- Serve as a support group for the Officers
- Gain the respect of other “veteran” Markettes, the Officers and the Director
- Don’t ever correct the Officers when they are teaching
- Pass on traditions
- Support and encourage the “Rookie” Markettes (especially your Little Sis)

- Be good teachers—of dance skills and by personal example. Remember, new Markettes will learn how to practice by your example.
- Stretch over the summer
- Don't gossip or tattletale. You will be with these people all year—be nice.
- Always put your name on all your Markette items
- Never wear uniforms outside of school (including warm-ups)
- Act like a lady—don't damage the reputation of all Markettes by your behavior at any time (during school or outside of school)
- You are responsible for picking up after yourself wherever you go
- Don't leave things in the dance room—they will end up lost
- Know the rules as stated in the Markette Constitution

The Role of Dance Officers

- Don't question the Director in front of anyone
- Always support your Director
- Honesty and Integrity are the most powerful and sought-after leadership qualities in any organization
- Initiate positive, consistent, and quality leadership
- Know that you command respect, not demand respect. It does not automatically come with authority and title.
- As a rule, always follow "Dance Team" time. Be at least 10 minutes early to practices, performances, and events
- Teach and perfect dance techniques
- Represent the Markettes properly at all times
- Be helpful and considerate—always
- Choreography—you are the leader
- Enforce the Markette rules fairly and justly
- Accept criticism—don't take it personally. It goes with the job
- Present a united front to the team—settle officer differences in private
- Have initiative - get practice/class going without being asked to
- Give positive feedback to the team, along with corrections
- Set a positive example with everything you do, both on and off the field

The Role of Social Officers

Social officers are a small group of returning Markettes. The members must try out in the spring. Social officers have many jobs, such as planning fun activities for the team, decorating the dance room and locker room, organizing and cleaning the costume closet, decorating bulletin boards, supporting the officers and directors, etc. The social officer positions are at the directors' discretion but are typically President, Vice President, Spirit Chair, Secretary, Historian, and Line Mom.

Social officers are expected to be outstanding team members as well by being motivated and keeping others motivated, not talking during practice, always trying their hardest, and supporting the officers and the directors.

Some of the major duties of the social officers are planning the Markette party at the beginning of the year, the Progressive Dinner, the Markette Spring Fling Party, and the end-of-year awards banquet. Being a social officer is a very rewarding job, and it is an essential part of the team.

Roles of Social Officers

- Initiating positive leadership
- As a rule, always follow “Dance Team” time. Be at least 10 minutes early to practices, performances, and events
- Organize fun activities, team bonding activities and banquets
- Make a point to have a fun activity/game and team outing each month
- Always do things in a timely fashion
- Decorate the dance room, locker room and bulletin boards
- Keep the costume closet organized and CLEAN
- Support the Officers and director
- Represent the group properly
- Be helpful and considerate in all areas
- Accept criticism—don’t take it personally, it goes with the job.

Uniform & Costs

This section covers guidelines for the Field Uniform

What is the Field Uniform?

Most of the Field uniform is supplied by the school. These are “on loan” and are returned to the school according to the Markette calendar. There are other parts of the field uniform that are not supplied by the school.

Uniform Supplied by the School:

- Field Leotard
- Skirt
- Leather Gauntlets (2)
- Leather Belt
- Sleeves
- Field Dress

Uniform NOT Supplied by the School

- Hat
- Boots
- Field Tights (no underwear)
- Tan Jazz Shoes

Rules for Wearing the Field Uniform

When you are in public and in uniform, you must wear the **complete** uniform including hat, gauntlets and belts. Boots must be clean. Hat must be worn at the proper tilt. (If your hat is tilted properly, you can place two fingers, pointer and middle finger, over your right eyebrow and your left pointer finger over your left eyebrow and your hat should touch your fingers.) No runs in tights. Performance make-up must be worn for every performance. No eating in field uniform unless by special permission of the director. **No jewelry or nail polish¹**.

Performance Make-up:

- Dark eye shadow (shades of blacks, greys or browns)
- Eyeliner
- False eyelashes
- Blush
- RED lipstick

Care of the Field Uniform

Since these items need to be worn at each football game throughout the entire season, special care should be taken to keep them clean and looking sharp.

Leotard & Skirt

The leotard and the skirt are **hand** washable with mild detergent (for example Ivory liquid or Woolite). Turn leotard inside out and zip before washing. Soak gently, rinse well, and roll in towel(s) to absorb excess water before hanging to dry. **PLEASE DO NOT DRY CLEAN. THIS WILL REMOVE THE SHINE FROM THE SEQUINS.**

1 French or American nail polish is acceptable if in good condition.

Hats

To keep your performance hat looking nice, use your hat cover at every outside practice. This is a rule. Also, remove your hat cover when not using it because it will affect the shape of your hat. Alternatively, girls may choose to have a "practice" hat to keep their performance hat clean.

Leather

Boots can be easily cleaned using any mild detergent, such as Joy. For grass stains and black marks, try Soft Scrub Gel with Bleach (a small amount on a rag, wipe clean). Another great tip is to use a "Magic Eraser."

Practice Uniforms / Dance Attire

The complete practice uniform is the practice top for the day and dance pants/capris/shorts.

- You may only wear tennis shoes for band practices during football season and when we are on the field in class. **NO** sandals when practicing.
- Your hair must be pulled back away from your face.
- No jewelry, watches, or gum is allowed during practice.
- You may wear T-shirts or tanks when we go outside for band practice. However, you will still wear your practice uniform during practice before school.
- Kneepads are strongly suggested for band day or any routine that has a lot of floor work. On band day, the girls will be practicing on the asphalt parking lot with the band.

Practice Attire for the Week:

Monday: All Black

Tuesday: Red top and black bottoms

Wednesday: All Black

Thursday: White top and black bottoms

Friday: Free dress

Football Game Day Information and Awards

The Markettes perform their routines at half time and the marching band will provide their music. The team will wear their complete field uniforms, unless otherwise stated by the director. The field uniform should never be worn in public places, except for performances. Eating while in uniform is not allowed, unless given permission by the director.

The team will learn the routines and tryouts will be held each week. Being a Markette does not mean that you will automatically be in each dance. You must earn that privilege each week. However, each Markette must attend the games, whether dancing or not.

The team will also perform stand dances, accompanied by the band. These routines are taught during the summer practices.

On game day, the girls will wear Markette attire to school.

At halftime the Dancer, Spirit Girl & Rookie of the Week are announced. These awards are given to one or more girls in each category each week.

Spirit Girl

The Social Committee gives this award to a Markette who demonstrated a positive attitude and team spirit during the week.

Dancer of the Week

The Officers give this award to a Markette who demonstrated great technique, a positive attitude, and a willingness to give 110% during practices that week.

Competition Season

The Markettes compete at one or more dance competitions in the first quarter of the year. These competitions are put on by various dance organizations such as Crowd Pleasers, ADTS, Ascension, MA etc.

Competition Schedule

The director will provide the schedule when it is made available. Schedules are usually complete by late October / early November so you can plan your personal time accordingly. The Markettes usually attend competitions in the month of February; however it is possible to attend in January and/or March.

There is a possibility of competing in an out of town competition every year.

Markette Social Activities

The Markettes have a few mandatory social events during the school year: Potluck Dinner, beginning of the year party, Progressive Dinner, Spring Fling Party and the Markette Award Banquet.

Potluck Dinner

This is held at MHS in the cafeteria. It will be Thursday August 3rd from 6:30-8:00. Each Markette is required to have at least one parent in attendance. This dinner is used in place of an August booster club meeting. The directors speak and the booster club board is introduced. It is great way for parents to meet each other and get acquainted with upcoming events and volunteer opportunities.

Beginning of the Year Party

This is held on the first Friday (August 4th) of line camp. The Social Officers plan and organize the party. It may be held at a different location from year to year. This is a great way for the girls to get to know each other outside of practice and celebrate a successful summer camp!

Progressive Dinner

This event is held on a Sunday evening (December 3rd) and serves as the Markette Holiday party. The girls usually wear tacky Christmas sweaters; it is one of their favorite events during the year. We need parents to volunteer to host a group of Markettes for either dinner or dessert. The girls will be broken into groups (normally by company) and will go to one house for dinner and a separate house for dessert. We need approximately 10 volunteers to host.

Spring Fling Party

This event is held on a Friday or Saturday afternoon in March or April. Social Officers are in charge of planning the event. The girls dress up and spend an afternoon socializing over tea and snacks. Each Big and Lil Sis will

sit together, again, a great time to bond outside of practice!

Markette Banquet

Banquet is a semi-formal dinner and includes the yearly awards banquet. It is held after Spring Show in April/May. Parents are invited and encouraged to attend.

After dinner, the year-end awards are announced. The team votes on many of these awards, but some may be decided by the Officers and/or Social Officers. Please refer to the following section for a list of some of the awards that may be given.

Spring Awards

The banquet is also the awards banquet for the Markette dance team. There are three types of awards given: those voted on by the whole team, those voted on by the officers, and the ones awarded by the directors. Although all Markettes are eligible for most of the awards, some are specifically for sophomores, juniors, or seniors.

Awards voted on by the whole team

- Outstanding Senior
- Outstanding Junior
- Outstanding Sophomore
- Markette of the Year
- Rookie of the Year

Awards voted on by the officers

- Outstanding Company Members
- Outstanding Company

Awards voted on by the directors

- Most Improved
- Excellence for Kick Technique
- Excellence for Academics
- Excellence for Showmanship
- Excellence for Leadership
- Excellence for Dance Technique
- Mary Neil Ormston Mustang Spirit Award

Awards given by the Social Committee

The Social Officers decide on various “fun” awards each year. These will vary from year to year and, therefore, are not included.

Dot Josey Scholarship

All 3 year Markette seniors are eligible to apply for the Dot Josey scholarship. The Markette car wash is held in May each year provides the funds for this scholarship. To apply seniors must write a short essay as to how Markettes has impacted their life, provide a resume and an application. The campus principal, senior principal and fine arts department head determine the winner or winners of the scholarship.

Travel Guidelines

All Markettes and parents should be aware of the following rules. The Markettes are expected to follow them whenever traveling with the team.

You are to:

- Report on time to all designated meeting spaces.
- Remain in assigned rooms and on assigned buses. You are not to change for any reason.
- Stay in groups of at least 3 during free time and have a buddy anywhere in the hotel, restaurant, and restrooms.
- Never leave the group unless released by the Director. When we are getting ready to dance, we do not want to have to look for you; therefore, you need to hear all directions.
- Remain in the hotel room after room check. Do not leave or open the door for anyone (other than a Markette chaperone) or any reason – this includes pizza delivery, room service, or other hotel services. If you need something, call a chaperone and they will assist you.
- Lock your hotel at all times. Do not prop the door open.
- Never be alone in the company of a male. This is time to be with the Markettes-not the time to find a boyfriend.
- Respect and listen to your chaperones.

Please read the district discipline regulations. Follow the SBISD Code of Conduct and the Markette Constitution. If you choose not to behave appropriately you will be dismissed from the team – at the time of the violation you are no longer the responsibility of the Markette organization. School disciplinary consequences may also apply.

Parents will be notified and must arrange for transportation home.

Before each trip, Markettes and parents must sign that they understand the rules and the consequences of not following them. Most years, the team goes on an out-of-town trip. The Director will decide on the destination. The Team will either compete or perform during this trip. These trips are planned in advance and will be explained and discussed as early as possible. A timetable and payment schedule will be provided as soon as it is finalized.

The trip is a great time for team bonding and lots of fun. It also takes considerable hard work and preparation to make it a successful event. Parents will be asked to volunteer as chaperones, but the director has the final decision on which parents are selected.

Chaperones will be required to fund their own trips. The Team does not have the resources to subsidize the fees of chaperones. Chaperones must agree to and abide by the district rules for chaperones.

Spring Show

The Spring Show is the recital for the Markettes. It is usually staged in April or May, with a performance on Friday and Saturday nights. Spring Show is one of the biggest expenses for the Markettes.

This show is a full costume performance and will be the culmination of an entire year of hard work. The show will contain many dances. The Team will learn dances during their class/practice time that will be performed during Spring Show.

Other organizations may perform during the dances.

A Spring Show program is compiled for the show incorporating advertising for businesses and personal ads for the Markettes. All early efforts to sell ads for this event help to offset the cost of printing the program and budgeting for other necessary expenses for the following year. More ads obtained means more money is raised for the Team.

Businesses such as restaurants, hair/nail salons, dentists, insurance agencies, real estate agencies and any business contacts are a good place to start. Most businesses are willing to lend their support if you ask them and taking a program from the previous year helps to sell ads visually. Order forms of different size ads along

with a program from the previous year will be given to all team members in January to help with selling. Remember the early bird catches the worm. There will be a deadline given at the time the order forms are distributed due to printing time needed.

Personal ads are also popular with the Markettes. Examples of personal ads would be Big Sister/Little Sister, Markette-to-Markette, family, and friends. Ads can be designed with pictures and/or personal messages.

Ads must be provided accompanied by a check, and turned in before the deadline.

We will also make money from the ticket and concession sales. It is very important to participate in the fund-raisers because the costumes are *expensive*. **Many volunteers are needed to make this show a success.**

Game Day Checklist

The Markettes are responsible to have all the items necessary for games. Here is a checklist to assist:

- Poms
- Hat with hat cover
- Belt and string
- Gauntlets
- Performance Makeup
- Poncho
- Bobby pins, Safety pins
- Markette water bottle
- Bug spray—be careful some brands may ruin your tights
- Extra tights
- Socks (helps keep boots on)
- Washcloth
- Hairspray
- Boot polish/white shoe polish
- Deodorant
- Kleenex/baby wipes
- Clear nail polish/remover (keep in zip-lock bag)
- Letter jacket or red blanket for cold games
- Feminine hygiene products

You must have your complete uniform on before you arrive and remember

- No nail polish (French / American is acceptable, but must be in good condition)
- No jewelry
- Full performance make-up
- Hair in slicked back left parted low ponytail, NO WISPIES!

Required Skills for Contest Routines

Jazz

Clean double pirouette
Jeté
Center Leap
Turning Center
Calypso
Illusion
Chaîné Turns
Piqué Turns
Calypso
Tilt Jumps
Switch Leap
Showmanship
Energy

Contemporary

Emotion
Movement quality
Fluidity of movement
Use of style and dynamics
Technical skills listed above in jazz

Pom

Sharp precise movements
Proper arm angles
Clean double pirouette
Jeté
Center Leap
Turning Center
Chaîné Turns
Standing split leap
Calypso
Tilt Jumps
Toe touches
Showmanship
Energy

Feature Sections

Calypso
Turning Center
Switch Tilt
A La Seconde Turns
Triple pirouette
Any switch leap (multiple kinds)
Showmanship
Illusion
Inside pirouettes